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THE COOPERATIVE FOREST
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

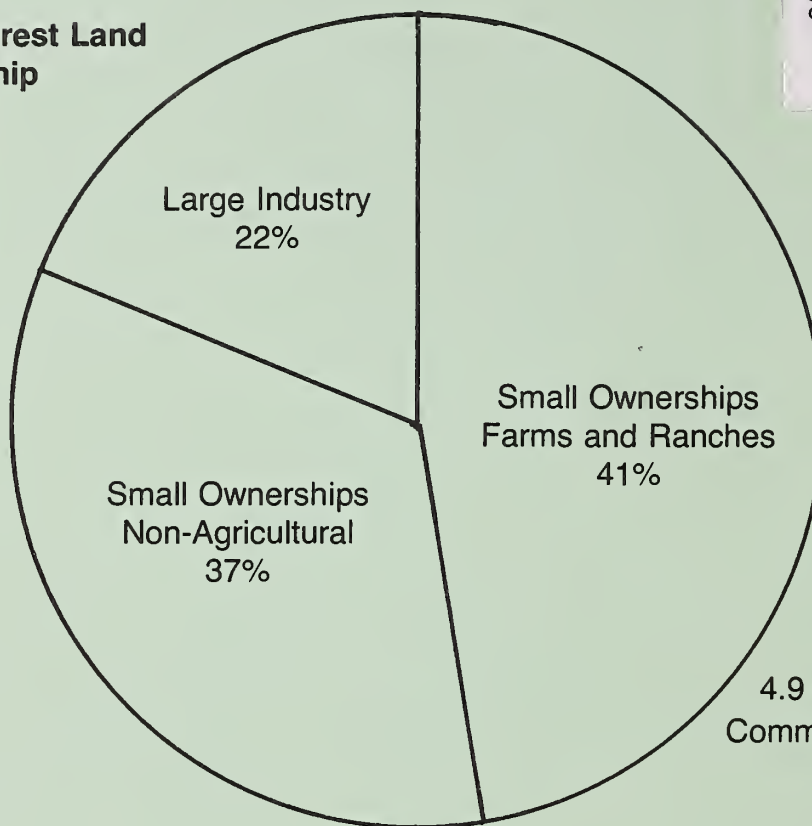
Professional Assistance for
Private Woodland Owners

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MONTANA'S PRIVATE FOREST

Commercial Forest Land Ownership



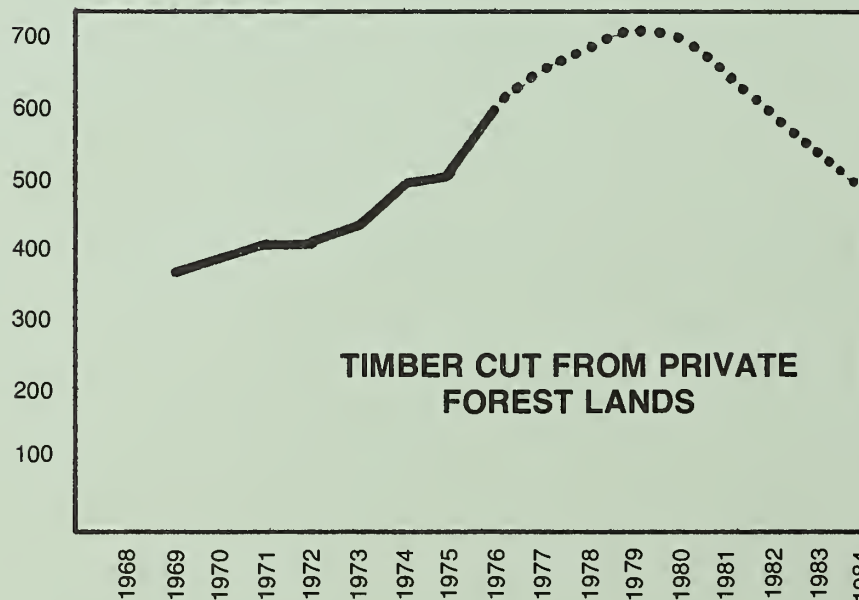
4.9 Million Acres of Private
Commercial Forest Lands

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CFM, the Cooperative Forest Management P



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VOLUME
CUT
(Million b.f.)



At the present
rate of harvest, the
available timber from
private lands will
decline in the early 1980's.

The Cooperative Forest Management Program

Through the Cooperative Forest Management (CFM) Program, the Division of Forestry of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation provides the leadership and meets the responsibility of helping private forest owners and operators to protect, manage and utilize the privately owned forests of Montana.

The Division, at no cost to the landowner, provides assistance in forest management plans, insect and disease control, hazard reduction, marketing, reforestation, timber stand improvement, wood product utilization, and community forestry.

Cooperating with the Division are the U.S. Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), Farmer's Home Administration, and the Montana Association of Conservation Districts.

Cost-share arrangements are also available to forest landowners for tree planting and timber stand improvement, under the ASCS's Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) and Agriculture Conservation Program (ACP).

When forest owners are contemplating timber cruising or marking, a commercial timber sale, or a timber appraisal, we recommend that they seek assistance from a professional consulting forester.

If you desire forestry assistance or more information, contact one of our Division Offices listed on the back page of this pamphlet.

VOLUME CUT FROM PRIVATE FOREST LANDS IN MONTANA *

Year	Volume From Private Forest Land (MBF)	Total Volume Cut In State	%Of Volume
1969	362,266	1,302,373	27.8
1970	343,053	1,093,313	31.4
1971	402,076	1,243,450	32.3
1972	406,628	1,083,600	37.5
1973	429,415	1,117,423	38.4
1974	499,400	1,088,283	45.9
1975	500,903	99,102	50.1

* Report from Montana Processors under the State Slash Law

PRIVATE CITIZENS, experienced in cooperative forest management, speak out in favor of informed and improved woodland treatment....

ERNIE BOLIN, Stevensville rancher, says he was initially concerned that forest improvements would automatically mean higher property taxes. However, after consulting professionals in the field, he found that his problems were not insurmountable:

“As an investment, a forest owner can make a profit, especially with wood getting more scarce and more valuable.

“Forestry cost-share programs sure helped in the development of my forest to provide a source of wood for future generations.*

“And it’s fun to do it, especially when you see the results of your work ten years later.”

* Forestry Incentives Program and Agriculture Conservation Program available through CFM.



TREE FARM

PRIVATELY
OWNED
FOREST





LOUISE CONNER TOWNSEND, Darby sawmill owner, says that small manufacturers such as her mill are increasingly relying on private landowners as a source of raw materials. In fact, many sawmill operators are changing the nature of their operations:

“Our objective in installing the ‘mini Beaver’ was to achieve maximum utilization of timber from our sales on National Forest Lands, supplemented with material from private forest lands. This has provided a market for residues from thinning and increases our forest resources for the future.

“Our Mini Beaver has been operating at about 1/3 capacity due to the (recent) reduction in cut from public lands. We now rely more on timber from private lands...”

The value to the landowner of such timber can be improved through programs such as CFM.



BILL JOHNSON, Plains banker, says that buying timberland, especially in conjunction with agricultural or pasture land, is a good investment. However, he advocates better management, such as that available through the CFM programs:

"It hurts me to cut down trees in a non-commercial thinning and just leave them lay. We need better markets for these small-diameter trees.

"We need incentives for the forest owner to manage his forest, not to prematurely cut it."

PRIVATE CITIZENS speak out....

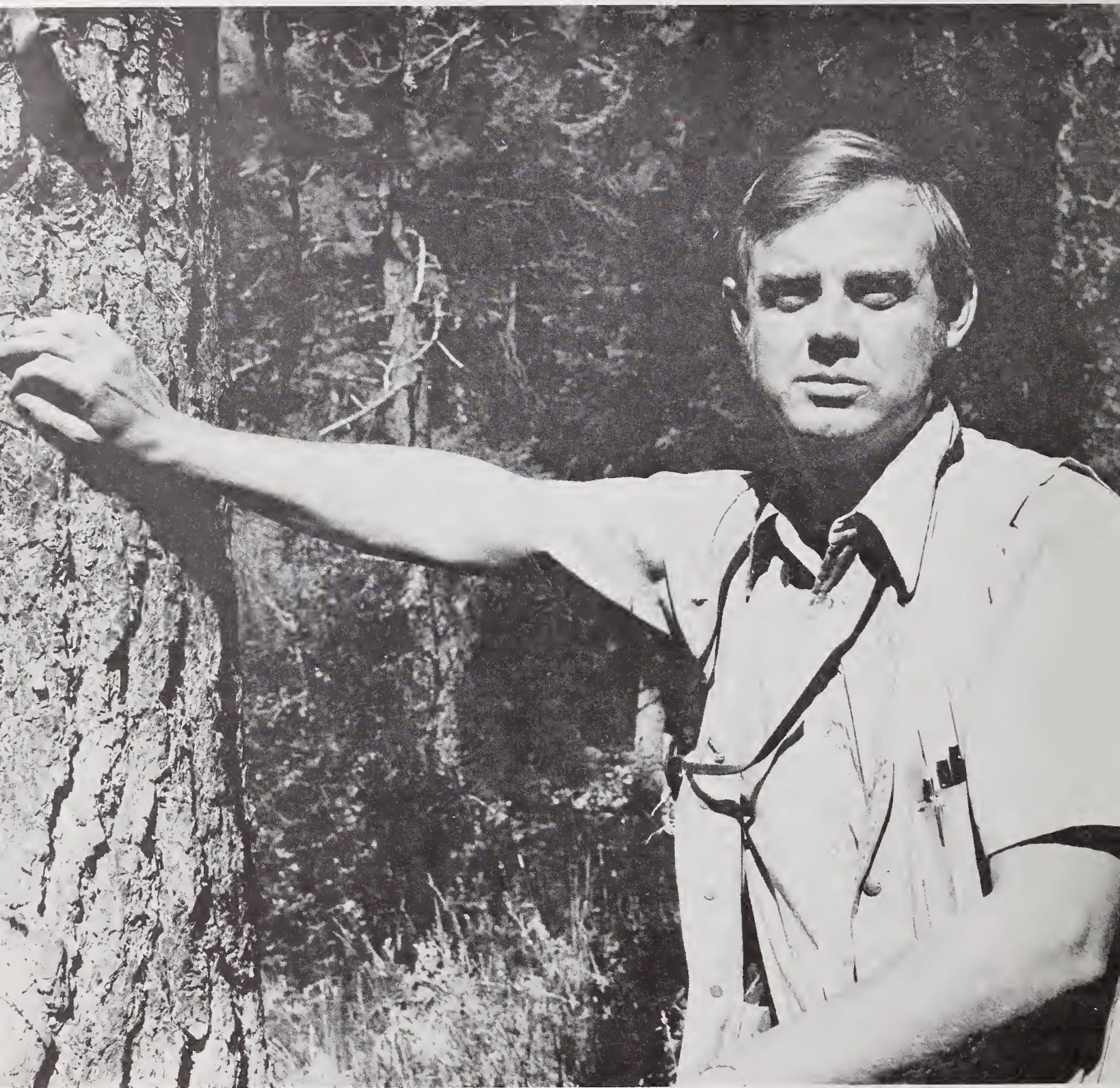
SAM GREGG, Missoula independent logger, says he depends on private forest lands to make a living. In addition, he feels that the future for private logging does not necessarily look grim:

"I believe there is very good potential on most of Montana's private forest lands to make a profit. Especially if it is well-managed and properly utilized.

"Loggers have the responsibility to do a good job of logging, to fully utilize what is harvested and to leave some good growing stock for the future."

Landowners who feel the same sense of responsibility can find out how to go about it, through CFM.





DON WOOD, Lolo forestry consultant, emphasizes the “dollars-and-sense” aspect of CFM programs.

“Many people belittle the potential of the Rocky Mountains to grow timber; but we have some excellent sites which compare quite favorably with other parts of the country.

“Economists, by playing with their statistics, can ‘prove’ that spending money on timber growing in Montana is a lousy investment. I disagree. By intensively treating a stand through thinning or selective cuttings or even fertilization, growth rates can be doubled, even tripled.

“If you take such an increase in growth, and figure in the potentials for increased stumpage prices – investment in timber growing in Montana might be one of the best investments you can find.”



FRANK GUAY, Flathead County Commissioner, points out that forest industry is a very important part of his county's tax base, as well as the mainstay of its economy. He sees good reason for programs such as CFM:

"Just as we strive to improve our agricultural practices on farm lands, we must also improve our forest practices on forest lands. Better forest management is the only answer to the increasing demands for wood.

"Private forest owners should be in contact with professional foresters for help in the management of their forests."

DON PEGG, Lewistown rancher, describes his successful application of a few basic forestry principles — the kind of thing available through CFM:

"In June of 1972 we purchased 480 acres of timber and pasture land. We originally planned to use the land only for grazing. Eventually we came to realize that the timber, mostly ponderosa pine and Douglas fir, was not growing — due to stagnation.

"With the current price of stumpage, we decided to sell some timber, opening up the stand by selective cutting and thinning.

"The selective harvest provided much-needed income and our timber lands are now in a much healthier condition and will provide future income opportunities. Also, forage yields have been increased for my livestock."





Montana's economic future is dependent upon the productivity of its farming, grazing and forested lands. The key to this productivity, as well as to soil and water conservation, is proper management.

Proper management of forested lands is becoming increasingly important today, especially in view of shortages developing in non-renewable resources such as oil, metals and minerals. Wood, which has played a major role in the development of our nation, has a tremendous potential in our future. The important thing to remember about wood is that it's renewable — if properly managed we will never totally deplete the resource.

Over one-fourth of Montana's forest lands are in private ownership. Most of these have good forest soils, easy access and high potential. However, many of the smaller private ownerships are plagued by relatively low productivity. This is due to problems that can be solved through better management — problems such as overcutting, stagnation of dense young stands, or poor stocking. Many of these problems can be solved through participation in programs such as Cooperative Forest Management.

Although the growing of trees is a relatively long-term venture, in many cases there are opportunities for earning profits even in the short term. More importantly, a well-managed forest will earn a good long-term income will provide wildlife, grazing, watershed and recreation, and is a good investment for future generations.

GARETH C. MOON, Administrator
Division of Forestry

For forestry assistance, see, write or call the State Service Forester in care of the following address nearest you.

P. O. Box 93
Star Route West
Anaconda, MT. 59711
(7 miles west of Anaconda)
Telephone: 563-6078

1245 N. 29th, Room 207
Billings, MT. 59102
Telephone: 248-6540

P. O. Box 1343
28 North Black
Bozeman, MT. 59715
Telephone: 586-5243

P. O. Box 713
Ford Building
Hamilton, MT. 59840
Telephone: 363-1585

8001 N. Montana Avenue
Helena, MT. 59601
Telephone: 449-3637

P. O. Box 224
Kalispell, MT. 59901
(1 mile north of Kalispell)
Telephone: 755-6575

USDA Building
Deer Lodge, MT. 58722
Telephone: 846-1703

P. O. Box 1021
513 West Janeaux
Lewistown, MT. 59457
Telephone: 538-5989

2705 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT. 59801
Telephone: 728-4300

P. O. Box 219
Plains, MT. 59859
(1 mile west of Plains)
Telephone: 826-3791

Sperry Grade Station
Greenough, MT. 59836
(2 miles east of Clearwater Jct.)
Telephone: 793-6127

Stillwater Station
P. O. Box 64
Olney, MT. 59927
Telephone: 881-2371

Swan River Station
Swan Lake, MT. 59912
(12 miles south of Swan Lake
at Goat Creek)
Telephone: 754-2301

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